



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Makah NFH Fishing Days

Fishing, Fun, and Learning for All Ages

Kids Fishing Day

Saturday June 9, 2011

The day started with breakfast for the crew and volunteers at 7:30, followed by the last of the set-up (tents and tables and gear), with the gates opening at 9 and fishing beginning at 9:30. The Makah Fisheries Management staff manned the registration table, registering 247 children. The estimated visitor count was around 500 once accompanying parents and friends were included. There were volunteers from a variety of organizations ranging from the WWFRO, RO, Quinalt NFH, the Neah Bay Coast Guard Station, the local clinic, and the local Dentist. One of the Tribal Natural Resources Enforcement Staff helped direct parking. The WWFRO provided chairs, tables and a PA system.

Activities

About 1,600 half-pound certified disease free rainbow trout were brought in from Nisqually Trout Farm. This year they were split into two raceways, one a traditional worm soaking style for younger kids, the other an experimental lure cast and retrieval system for older kids. The Makah Fisheries Management staff had collected donations for food and prizes. A choice of hot dogs or salmon burgers, chips and a drink was available to feed everyone. Quinalt National Fish hatchery donated 150 fishing poles and 36 tackle boxes to the children participating in the fishing day. Prizes for children included ten bikes with helmets and an assortment of basketballs and footballs. WWFRO staff provided and manned an art booth and educational displays. It was a long but successful day, with many happy kids toting home bags of fish, art projects and fishing poles.



*Makah National Fish Hatchery staff helping kids net fish
(Credit: Caroline Peterschmidt)*

Head Start Fishing Day

Monday June 11, 2011

The Neah Bay Head Start were invited for a Head Start Fishing day to catch the remaining fish. There were three classes of 11-16 children, each catching at least one fish.

Senior and Handicapped Fishing Day

Thursday June 16, 2011

Area seniors and handicapped persons were invited to fish on the remaining fish. There were 30 seniors registered and about 12 younger people accompanying them. Makah Fisheries Management Staff participated in the event, collecting donations for food to serve for lunch and gift cards to give away as prizes. Everyone enjoyed themselves and many mentioned that they had never caught a fish this way before or it had been years since they had gone fishing. Friendly rivalries quickly sprung up between old friends to see who could catch the biggest fish. A cleaning station was staffed by hatchery and fisheries to send the fish home cleaned, iced and ready to cook.

Fish still remaining after all these events were provided to the local food bank for distribution in the community.



For more information, contact:
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